

It would be better for Congress to abdicate any functions in relation to pensions of any sort, and to enact that whatsoever things Mr. Bentley wanted he should take and have.

There is no wisdom in the proposition. As it now stands the public money is protected by division into the hands of several agents, each of whom can give, and do give, satisfactory bonds for the safe-keeping and disbursement. This bill makes no provision for bonds from this pay department to be constructed at the will and pleasure of the Commissioner, and is, in all other respects, immature, incomplete, and unsatisfactory. It is only evidence to our minds of the overweening ambition of the Commissioner, paralleled only by the Bantam hen that spread herself to cover two dozen eggs. In that attempt the hen and the eggs both suffered. May it not be so with our respected Commissioner.

Mr. Bridges, of the House, has presented a bill "to prevent the receipt of *ex parte* affidavits, letters, statements or written communications by the Commissioner of Pensions, under an injunction of secrecy, against the allowing of pensions."

This proposition is in the same line of thought and action as the bill offered by Mr. McMahon, and forbids the Commissioner of Pensions from withholding from any person interested any secret communication affecting an allowance of pension, but requires that all such communications shall be open to inspection of the parties interested, their agents or attorneys.

We do not know the precise reasons moving Mr. Bridges to the offering of this bill, but presume that he knows of some case just in itself, in which the claim has been disallowed on some secret communication of the kind referred to.

Such things have undoubtedly often happened. It is somewhat difficult to draw the line in the police power which ought to be delegated to the head of the Department.

As a rule it is safe to say that the requirement of secrecy in a business communication of this nature, is an unsafe one. Yet it may be that valuable information is thus tendered as the basis and motive of an examination; for this purpose, and this purpose alone, it would seem to be advisable to admit it. Then if subsequently developed evidence, which can and ought to be open and free to inspection, sustains the case made in the secret paper, it will be right to act upon such evidence, but in no case and under no circumstances ought final action to be had on any communication whose writer is afraid to avow his name and purpose.

It should never be considered as anything but preliminary evidence, of no weight in itself, but whose indications, if followed and sustained, may be used fairly and honestly to support or defeat any pending claim.

The more publicity is given to examinations the better for all honest purposes; but there must be some discretion as to suggestions which may or may not lead to examination and decision.

The attention of the former clients of B. F. Pritchard, Esq., of Indianapolis, Indiana, who have not written to me since December, 1876, is again called to the following:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., NOV. 13, 1876.
GEORGE E. LEMON, Esq., Washington, D. C.:
DEAR SIR—You are hereby authorized to notify each of my clients that I have transferred to you all their claims, evidences, &c., and that it is my desire that they should correspond with you hereafter, and forward such evidence as you may need to complete their claims.
(Signed) B. F. PRITCHARD.

This proposed transfer was submitted to the Hon. Z. Chandler, Secretary of the Interior, for his consideration and action. The following extract from his letter, written to the Hon. J. A. Bentley, Commissioner of Pensions, explains itself, and to it your attention is invited:

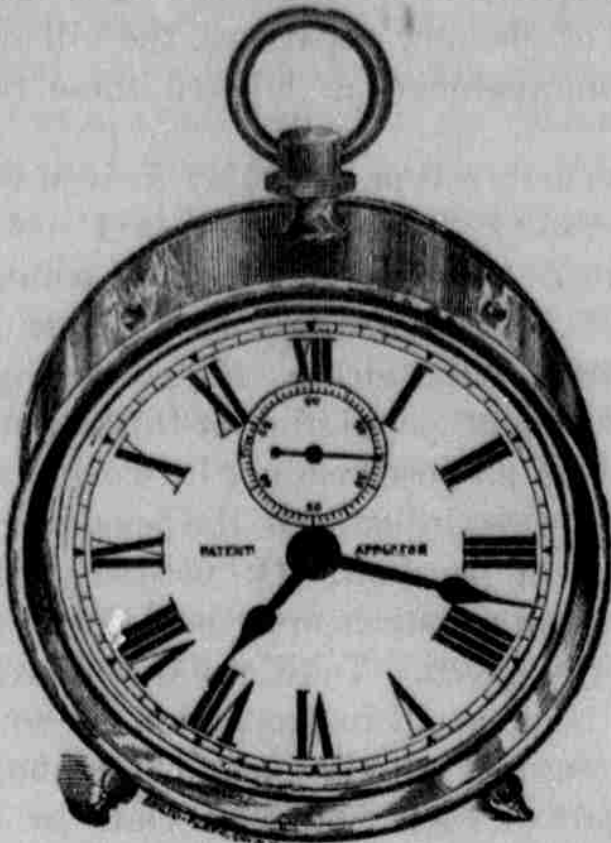
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., December 6, 1876.

In view of the peculiar state of facts existing in the case, and the good standing of Mr. Lemon as an attorney before this Department, as well as his apparent good faith in this entire transaction, I am of the opinion that it would be proper to allow the transfer to be made.

Z. CHANDLER.

In accordance with the foregoing, the Hon. J. A. Bentley, Commissioner of Pensions, issued an order recognizing me in all cases filed by Mr. Pritchard prior to October 6, 1876; wherein he hath the power of substitution.

Special Announcement to all Our Friends.



Quite recently we have been enabled, through fortuitous circumstances, to make arrangements for procuring a large supply of those beautiful little gems, of nickel-plated clocks, with heavy plate-glass fronts and stem-winding, which are now so exceedingly popular in the East and wherever used. (See illustration above.) All the movements of this clock are perfect. They are manufactured of the best materials, with polished steel springs, and all the plates are screwed together. In short, this clock, as we state, is a gem, thoroughly reliable as a time keeper, and admirably fitted to grace any mantle, shelf, or stand in any parlor, dining, or sleeping room. Now, having related these unquestionable facts pertaining to this clock, which we designate as the "NATIONAL TRIBUNE" Clock, we beg leave to impress it upon the minds of all readers, that owing to special arrangements, we are enabled to offer to any and all the "National Tribune Clock" and the "National Tribune Newspaper" for the unprecedented low price of *One Dollar and Seventy-five cents*. In clubs of ten or more subscribers we will allow *one extra clock and paper*, for the getting up of every said club of ten. The clock and paper will be sold, under no circumstances, for less than one dollar and seventy-five cents, whether in orders for one or a hundred, and in all cases of so ordering, parties must pay the freight, the amount of which will be but a trifle. No fears need be entertained of a breakage of the clock or disarrangement of its parts by transportation. Thus, we give you a superior clock and an excellent newspaper, of special interest to the thousands of soldiers of the country, concerning their patriotism, their rights, and their pockets, while the general news it publishes relating to matters at Washington, its social gossip, lively sketches, choice selections, &c., will render it a welcome guest in every family circle. Now, here is a prospectus for some good, profitable business, which soldiers especially could make a great success. Almost every householder would buy one of these clocks, even if he had several on hand, and those who have none, would surely buy. Go to work then and get up your clubs. Think of it. A beautiful family clock, entirely reliable, and an interesting family newspaper, both for one dollar and seventy-five cents, with a clock and an extra clock and newspaper for every getter up of a club of ten. *Eleven clocks and eleven newspapers for seventeen dollars and fifty cents*. Remit by money orders, which can be obtained at almost every U. S. Post Office, by registered letter, by draft on New York, or by express. Specimen of paper sent free.

Address at once,
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Washington, D. C.

Pensions to Soldiers and Sailors of the Mexican and other Wars.

In the House of Representatives, January 14, instant, an interesting debate, affecting soldiers and sailors, took place. It grew out of an amendment reported from the Committee on Invalid Pensions:

"That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension-roll the names of the surviving officers and enlisted men, including militia and volunteers, of the military and naval services of the United States, who served sixty days in the war of 1846 and 1847 with Mexico, or in the Creek war of 1835 and 1836, or in the Florida or Black Hawk war for thirty days and were honorably discharged, and to such other officers and soldiers and sailors as may have been personally named in any resolution of Congress, for any specific service in said wars, although their term of service may have been less than sixty days, and the surviving widows of such officers and enlisted men: *Provided*, That such widows have not remarried."

The subject was debated by Messrs. Hooker, Harrison, Townsend, White, Hewitt of Alabama, and others. Mr. White offered an amendment that the benefits of this act should be confined to those not less than sixty years of age, and to this proposition Mr. Harrison moved to insert "seventy-five" in place of "sixty." Both of these amendments were voted down. Mr. Sinnickson, of New Jersey, offered the following amendment:

"Amend, by inserting after the word 'Mexico,' or who served sixty days in the military or naval service of the United States, in the war of 1861, for the suppression of the rebellion."

Tellers being ordered on Mr. Sinnickson's amendment the ayes were 96, noes 88. Further discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Hale, Burchard, and others participated. Additional amendments were proposed, confining the benefits of the bill *exclusively* to the soldiers of the war of the rebellion. These were rejected. The committee then rose. The general spirit of the debate indicated a preponderating influence in favor of granting the just demands of soldiers and sailors, and augurs well for the passage by Congress of a liberal bounty bill.

The average period of gestation for a mare is 336 days; cow, 280 days; ewe, 154 days; goat, 153 days; sow, 112 days; slut, 60 days; rabbit, 30 days. Incubation—Goose, 36 days; turkey, 27 days; peafowl, 28 days; duck, 28 days; chicken, 21 days; pigeon, 17 days; and canary, 13 days.

Important to Readers—Observe this Carefully.

The Americans are a nation of readers. Many ladies and gentlemen take half a dozen newspapers and magazines, and yet demand more. Are they fully supplied unless a patron of the NATIONAL TRIBUNE, a journal specially devoted to the interests of the soldiers of the country, their only and immediate organ in the United States, and containing at the same time general and spicy news and information which readers will relish.

Now, in order to accommodate all who desire our paper, we have made arrangements to furnish it and others having a national reputation at the following rates:

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE and—

Advance, Chicago.....	\$2 90
American, Baltimore.....	1 50
Agriculturist, New York.....	1 50
Andrews' Bazar, Cincinnati.....	1 30
Advocate, Christian, St. Louis.....	2 50
Appleton's Journal, New York.....	2 75
Appleton's Popular Science, New York.....	4 25
Benham's Review, Indianapolis.....	1 25
Banner of Light, Boston.....	3 15
Ballou's Magazine, Boston.....	1 75
Blade, Toledo.....	2 00
Cultivator, Albany.....	2 50
Cultivator, Boston.....	2 00
Church's Musical Visitor, Cincinnati.....	1 50
Commercial Advertiser, Detroit.....	2 00
Contributor, Boston.....	1 10
Cottage Hearth, Boston.....	1 50
Christian at Work, New York.....	2 50
Christian Weekly, Illustrated, New York.....	2 50
Comer-Journal, Louisville.....	1 75
Detroit Free Press.....	1 75
Demorest's Monthly Magazine, New York.....	2 50
Danbury News, Danbury.....	2 10
Every Body's Paper, Chicago.....	70
Enquirer, Cincinnati.....	1 50
Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly, New York.....	3 50
Chimney Corner, New York.....	3 50
Lady's Journal, New York.....	3 50
Sunday Magazine, New York.....	2 75
Boy's and Girl's Weekly, New York.....	2 25
Popular Monthly, New York.....	2 75
Budget of Wit, New York.....	1 50
Forest and Stream, New York.....	3 50
Farmer's Friend, Mechanicsburg, Pa.....	1 60
Fur, Fin and Feather, New York.....	2 00
Floral Cabinet, New York.....	1 50
Fireside Companion, New York.....	2 50
Farmers' Home Journal, Louisville.....	1 75
Globe, Boston.....	1 30
Graphic, (illustrated,) New York.....	2 25
Goody's Lady Book; Philadelphia.....	2 00
Hawkeye, Burlington.....	1 75
Home and Farm, Louisville.....	90
Harper's Weekly, New York.....	3 70
Bazar, New York.....	3 70
Monthly, New York.....	3 50
Home Magazine, Athens.....	2 25
Illinois Staats Zeitung, Chicago.....	1 75
In Door and Out, Chicago.....	1 00
Indiana Farmer, Indianapolis.....	2 00
Indianapolis Journal, Indianapolis.....	1 50
Irish American, New York.....	2 50
Independent, (with valuable premiums,) New York.....	3 00
Interior, Chicago.....	2 25
Inter-Ocean, Chicago.....	1 55
Journal of Agriculture, St. Louis.....	1 70
Journal of Chemistry, Boston.....	1 15
Kansas Farmer, Topeka.....	1 90
Living Age, Boston.....	7 25
Methodist, New York.....	2 20
Musical World, Cincinnati.....	1 50
National Sunday School Teacher, Chicago.....	1 50
Nation, New York.....	5 20
New York Sun, (weekly).....	1 50
Evening Post, (weekly).....	1 60
Herald, (weekly).....	1 40
World, (weekly).....	1 40
Times, (weekly).....	1 50
News, (weekly).....	1 40
Observer, (weekly).....	2 65
National Baptist, Philadelphia.....	2 75
Nursery, Boston.....	1 60
Odd Fellows' Companion, Columbus.....	1 25
Public Leader, Detroit.....	1 75
Prairie Farmer, Chicago.....	2 00
Republican, Springfield.....	2 00
Republican Press, Concord.....	2 00
Sentinel, Indianapolis.....	1 40
Standard, Chicago.....	2 70
Saturday Journal, New York.....	2 50
Scientific American, New York.....	3 40
Scientific Farmer, Boston.....	1 20
Scribner's Monthly, New York.....	3 70
St. Nicholas, New York.....	2 90
Star Spangled Banner, Hinsdale, N. H.....	85
Sunday School Times, Philadelphia.....	2 15
Times, Chicago, (weekly).....	1 75
Tribune, Chicago, (weekly).....	1 50
Times, Philadelphia.....	1 75
Traveller, Boston.....	1 50
Times, Leavenworth.....	1 50

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We would like to hear from any soldiers, North, South, East, or West, who would be pleased to labor in the cause. Let us hear from you, boys.

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